



Graduate and Professional Student Association

The Pennsylvania State University
315 HUB-Robeson Center
University Park, PA 16802
Email: gpsa@psu.edu

GPSA Assembly Meeting | Wednesday, February 1, 2017 | 6:00pm | 134 HUB Robeson Center

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting is called to order by the Executive Vice President at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call Attendance – See Addendum I

III. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Motion to add Resolution 66-09.
 - i. There is an objection based Article IX, Subsection E. It is recommended that we table until next meeting.
 - ii. Given the fast pace of these developments, I think it is imperative that we respond quickly. UPUA is going to be putting forth a resolution of their own.
 - iii. President Barron didn't wait a week.
 - iv. It is important that we join UPUA. There was a question as to why we took so long with the DACA resolution.
 - v. Motion for hand vote to put on the agenda. The motion passes.
- b. Motion to add Resolution 66-08. There are no objections; it is added to the agenda.
- c. There are no objections to the revised agenda.

IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

- a. Hearing no objection to the past meeting's minutes, the minutes are approved as distributed.

V. Open Student Forum

- a. There are no comments.

VI. Special Presentation – Amy Cotner, D.Ed., Title IX Education and Programming Coordinator

- a. Title IX is part of the Education Amendments of 1972.
 - i. It protects students from sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and retaliation.
 - ii. It doesn't matter whether it happened while you were a Penn State student, whether it occurred at Penn State.
 - iii. Does it affect your performance at Penn State?
- b. Someone from the Title IX office can come to your student group to provide an in-depth presentation.
- c. Question: If you could re-write Title IX, would you change anything?
- d. Question: How do you talk to graduate students now?
 - i. There is an (optional) online course for transferring graduate students.
 - ii. Some colleges provide presentations in their orientations.
- e. Question: Is your office working on the sexual assault problem on campus?

- i. We work with a lot of different groups on campus – Greek life, Center for Women Students, athletics – on issues of concern to the whole Penn State community.
- ii. We are working on a culture change. That’s why we have Stand for State.

VII. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President (Kevin Horne)
 - i. There is an ongoing University-wide parking assessment.
 - ii. Apply for a student trustee position. Tell your constituents about it.
 - iii. There was a meeting with student government leaders and Governor Wolf’s chief of staff about maintaining two student trustee seats.
 - iv. S books were given out this year and seem to be popular. We have seats on the S book committee. I am hopeful we will purchase more for next year.
 - v. There was a meeting with Housing & Food Services about room and board rates. Graduate student rates are increasing less than undergraduate housing rates and applications are up for Blue Course apartments.
 - vi. Both TedxPSU and State for State are coming up before our next meeting.
- b. Vice President (Marina Cotarelo)
 - i. Nothing to report.
- c. Treasurer (Sidharth Agrawal)
 - i. About \$24,000 left in the budget.
 - ii. There will be about \$19,000 after the S books.
- d. Secretary (Anne Whitesell)
 - i. Newswire going out on Monday; if you have something to include, send it by Sunday.
- e. Faculty Senate Report (Kevin Reuning)
 - i. Latest meeting discussed titles for professors.
 - ii. President Barron discussed tuition freeze. There wasn’t a hard “no.”
 - iii. There was an email sent out to the Faculty Senate with questions about what the Executive Order would mean for PSU.
 - 1. No one registered with the Travel Safety Network is stuck outside the country; not sure about others.
 - 2. This would affect about 200 students.
- f. Graduate Council (Brienne Pragg)
 - i. Nothing to report.

VIII. New Business

- a. Bill 66-29: Graduate and Professional Student Mixer
 - i. At Café 210 on Tuesday, February 21 from 6 to 8 pm with an approximate cost of \$1490.
 - ii. Allocated food for about 100 people.
 - iii. Amend Line 21 to “Student Organization Funds.”
 - iv. This date is finals week for MBA students. If possible, we would appreciate another date.
 - v. Last year there were about 100 people there and we ran out of food.
 - vi. Do we need door prizes?
 - vii. Would it be possible for us to allocate some additional money for food if it was needed?

- viii. Motion to amend bill to take out door prizes. The motion is seconded. The grand total is now \$1390.
 - ix. Motion to amend bill to add \$500 to food total, contingent on need.
 - x. Motion to increase the grand total to \$1890. Amend is seconded.
 - xi. Motion to vote via roll call. The motion is seconded.
 - xii. See Addendum II for roll call vote. The bill passes.
- b. Resolution 66-08:
- i. “P” faculty either doesn’t have a research PhD or are not tenure-track. They cannot serve on committees or teach graduate-level classes. This has created problems in many departments.
 - ii. Question: Do these distinction impact rankings?
 - 1. The Graduate School’s explanation was to increase prestige.
 - 2. It has not affected the rankings yet.
 - iii. Question: How much are we going to push on this issue?
 - 1. When leaders of student government meet with Provost or other administrators, it is useful to have resolutions.
 - 2. A brief statement can be read at the Graduate Council meeting.
 - iv. Question: Are they bringing up the proposal or voting on it at the next meeting?
 - 1. We don’t know the specific language of the proposal.
 - 2. We can’t guarantee that it will be voted on at the next meeting.
 - v. Motion to approve via unanimous consent. There are no objections.
 - vi. The resolution passes.
- c. Resolution 66-09:
- i. The executive order said that citizens of 7 countries will be banned for at least 90 days. They are not protected by the Immigration and National Security Act of 1965.
 - ii. There is also a ban on refugees for 120 days.
 - iii. International students make up about 1 in 4 students at Penn State, and 40% of graduate students at UP are international students.
 - iv. UPUA has written a resolution to support President Barron urging the administration to accommodate affected students.
 - v. Can we amend the resolution to include J-1 and J-2 visas?
 - vi. Motion to strike “similar to permanent residents” on line 24. There are no objections.
 - vii. Motion to amend to include J-1 and J-2 visas and spouses and dependents. There are no objections.
 - viii. We should table this to make sure we all understand the complexities.
 - 1. We make edits on previous bills. This does not change the purpose of the bill.
 - ix. We need to make sure we know the difference between responding and reacting.
 - x. Motion to approve via roll call. The motion is seconded.
 - xi. See Addendum II for roll call vote. The bill passes.

IX. Reports

- a. Speaker of the Assembly (Brian Conway)
 - i. Please email me if you are going to be absent.
 - ii. See me after the meeting if you are not on a committee.
- b. Internal Development (Vacant)

- i. Nothing to report.
- c. Student Affairs (James Fan)
 - i. Professional Development (Christine Mosich)
 - 1. Professional headshots are today and tomorrow. Almost all the spots are filled.
 - 2. There are about 40 students participating in grad writing boot camp.
 - ii. Community Service (Steven DeGrazia)
 - 1. Our next event is the blood drive for THON on February 17. We could use more volunteers – go to volunteer.psu.edu.
 - 2. Project Haiti would like us to advertise their events.
 - 3. The committee is also looking for new members.
 - iii. Programming (Brian Conway)
 - 1. We will have a mixer on February 21. Please tell your constituencies.
 - 2. GPSA Theater Day was a success. We hope we can continue this partnership.
 - iv. Diversity (Kyler Sherman-Wilkins)
 - 1. The survey is done and is circulating among other grad groups.
 - 2. I am hoping to send the survey to the Executive Board by Monday.
 - v. Grad Cup (James Fan)
 - 1. Grad Cup is an annual full-day event (10am-3pm, usually a Saturday) at the end of the spring semester.
 - 2. In total there are about 325 participants, including volunteers.
 - 3. Still to do: approve spending bill, reserve the field, order necessary supplies, register teams, and recruit volunteers
- d. Advocacy (Matt Krott)
 - i. Thank you to everyone who has given feedback on the survey.
 - ii. Monday the survey is going out through the Newswire, department secretaries, and social media.
- e. Liaisons
 - i. Movin' On (Anthony Pinter):
 - 1. Next academic year graduate students will be more involved.
- f. Judiciary (Jesse Scott)
 - i. Wednesday and Thursday election – more to come next meeting
- g. Board of Trustees (Allie Goldstein)
 - i. February 23-24 is the next board meeting. Thursday is committee meetings, and Friday is the public meeting.
 - ii. Student trustee selection process is open. Ask for more information.
- h. Advisor (Dr. Phillip Burlingame)
 - i. The resolutions are very thoughtful and the discourse is civil.
 - ii. The University is in the process of evaluating health insurance vendors for graduate students. Let Allison Franklin know if you are interested in participating.

X. Comments for the Good of the Order

- a. Two events happening at the Katz Building this week related to the past week's executive order.
- b. It is the first day of Black History Month. The Paul-Robeson Center has many events going on this month.

- c. The show last night was great. An alum performed in it.
- d. Thank you to Austin and Brittany for throwing a great pre-show social.

XI. Adjournment

- a. The meeting is adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Whitesell

Addendum I. Roll Call Attendance

P = present

A = absent

E = excused

PR = proxy

Office	Name	Attendance
Executive Board		
President	Kevin Horne	P
Vice President	Marina Cotarelo	P
Treasurer	Sidharth Agrawal	P
Secretary	Anne Whitesell	P
Faculty Senator	Kevin Reuning	P
Graduate Council		
Graduate Council	Brianne Pragg	P
Graduate Council	Carol Rogers-Shaw	E
Graduate Council	Kevin Cloonan	P
Judiciary		
Chief Justice	Jesse Scott	L
Associate Justice	Michael Kramer	P
Assembly		
Agricultural Sciences	Cameron Stephens	P
Arts and Architecture	Miguel Campos	E
Dickinson School of Law	Mackenzie Mitchell	E
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Michael Cronin	P
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Gerald Knapp	P
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	L
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	P
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	L
Education	Xulu Zhang	E
Education	Christine Mosich	E
Engineering	John McKay	E

Engineering	Matt Krott	P
Engineering	Shen-li Pei	P
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	P
Health and Human Development	Katharine Grills	P
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	P
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	L
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	P
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	P
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	P
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	P
Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	P
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	L
Smeal College of Business	Nicolas Lien	P
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Wahba	P
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	P
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	E/PR

Addendum II. Roll Call Votes

Office	Name	Bill 66-29	Res. 66-09
Assembly			
Agricultural Sciences	Cameron Stephens	Y	Y
Arts and Architecture	Miguel Campos	---	---
Dickinson School of Law	Mackenzie Mitchell	---	---
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Michael Cronin	Y	A
Earth and Mineral Sciences	Gerald Knapp	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	William Wright	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Brian Conway	Y	Y
Eberly College of Science	Erica Schwalm	Y	Y
Education	Xulu Zhang	---	---
Education	Christine Mosich	---	---
Engineering	John McKay	---	---
Engineering	Matt Krott	Y	Y
Engineering	Shen-li Pei	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Austin Barrett	Y	Y
Health and Human Development	Katharine Grills	Y	Y
Information Sciences and Technology	Anthony Pinter	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	Brittany Banik	Y	Y
Inter-Collegiate Degree Program	David Dopfel	Y	Y
School of International Affairs	Jennifer Gibbs	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Robert Zuchowski	Y	Y
Liberal Arts	Kyler Sherman-Wilkins	Y	Y

Smeal College of Business	Steven Di Grazia	Y	Y
Smeal College of Business	James Fan	Y	Y
Smeal College of Business	Nicolas Lien	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Mohammad Wahba	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	Sonny Arora	Y	Y
At-Large Delegate	William Dusch	Y	Y